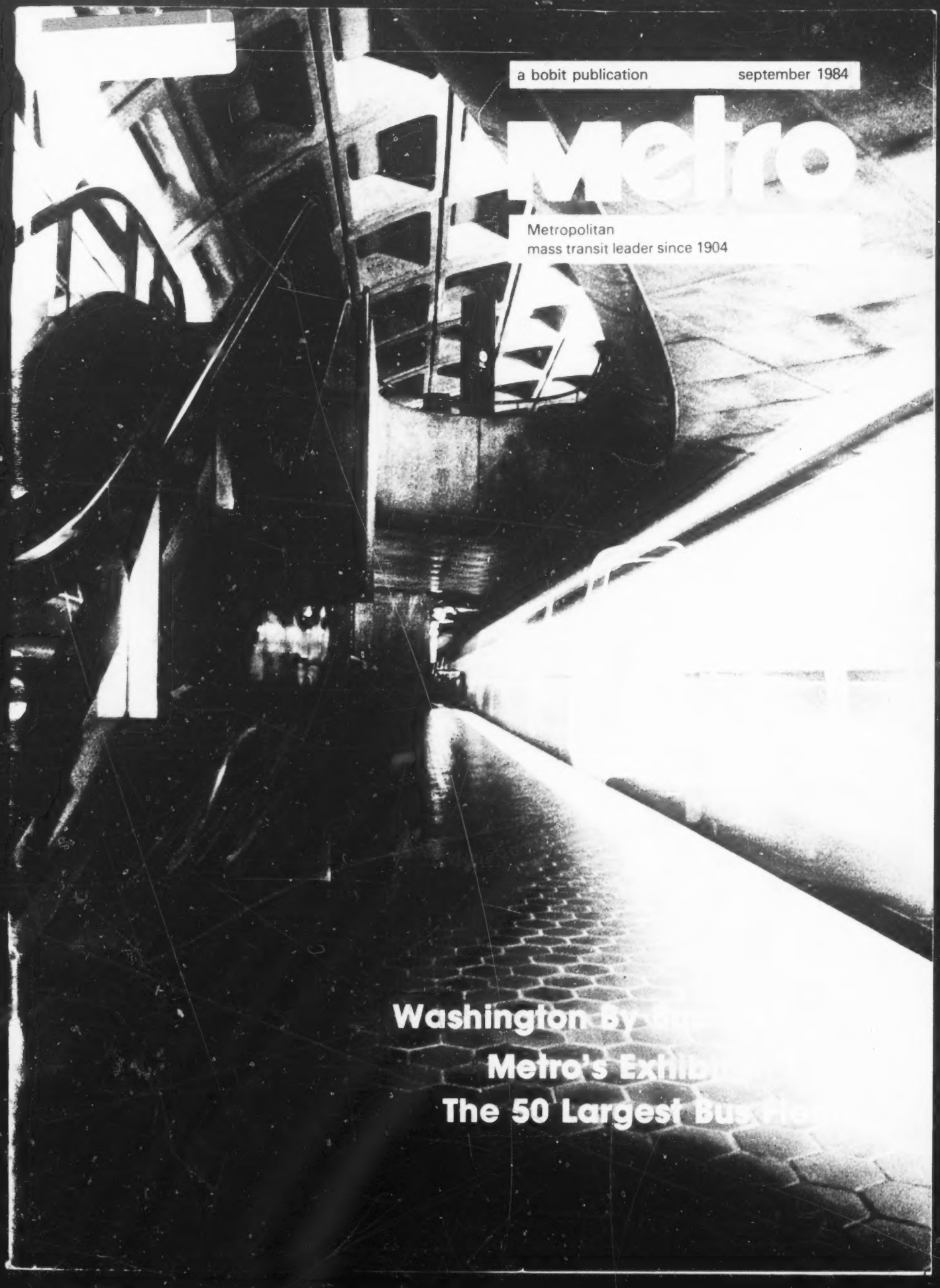
a bobit publication september 1984

metro

Metropolitan
mass transit leader since 1904



Washington By
Metro's Exhib
The 50 Largest Bus

sept/oct '84 a bobit publication vol. 80 no. 5

Metro

Metropolitan
Serving Surface
Mass Transportation Since 1904

Affiliated Publications: School Bus Fleet, Automotive Fleet, Contemporary Surgery, Contemporary Orthopaedics, Limousine & Chauffeur, Waterbed

Washington Metrorail, photo by Paul Myatt, WMATA

Dialogue with Auwärter

Exhibit in Print

Features

34 **The Nation's Metro**
Will the full Metrorail system ever be built?

44 **An Ongoing Drive To Improve**
Ridership and productivity continue to climb at WMATA.

51 **The Top Fifty Fleets**
METRO presents the largest transit bus fleets in North America.

64 **Washington By Charter**
Tour bus operators say the nation's capital is a lucrative market.

74 **Caveat Emptor, Caveat Vendor**
Have procurement practices burdened the marketplace?

91 **Neoplan's CEO Discusses Strategy**
Albrecht Auwärter on U.S. and worldwide bus markets.

98 **D.C. Shows Transit What's New**
Playing host to transit experts from the world.

107 **Metro's Exhibit In Print**
A look at what exhibitors will display at Expo '84.

150 **Batteries Seek Their Master**
Regulator alleviates voltage variance.

152 **Canada Showcases Its Transit Supply Industry**
Government spends millions to exhibit at Expo '84.

Departments

Industry News	5	Consultant's Corner	163
Metroscope	30	Classified	165
People in Transit	161	Ad Index	167

Publisher's Perspective 168

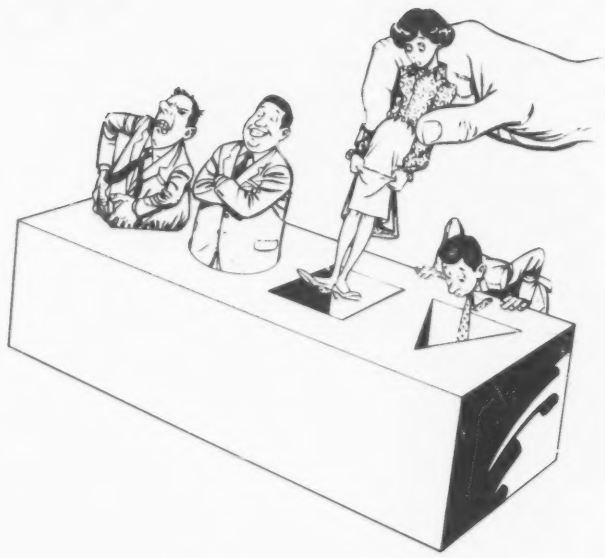
Member:
american public transit association (APTA) · RPI Railway Progress Institute · United Bus Owners of America · ABA American Bus Association · business publication audit, inc. (BPA)

METROPOLITAN ISSN (0162-6221) is published seven times a year (January, March, May, July, September, November, Fact Book) by Bobit Publishing Company. The contents of this publication may not be reproduced either in whole or part without consent of Bobit Publishing Company. Please address ALL Correspondence to the Editorial and Executive Offices at 2500 Artesia Boulevard, Redondo Beach, California 90278. Subscription prices — $12 per year; $20 for two years. Single copy $2, $10 for Fact Book. Canada and Foreign — $18 per year, $30 for two years. Second Class Postage paid at Redondo Beach, CA 90277-9998 and at additional entry. POSTMASTER: Return Form 3579 to 2500 Artesia Blvd., Redondo Beach, California 90278.

New York Transit Authority and Manhattan and Bronx Surface Transit Operating Authority New Jersey Transit Corporation Bus Operations, Inc. & Statewide Vehicle Lease Program Southern California Rapid Transit District Chicago Transit Authority Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Commission De Transport De La Communaute De Montreal Toronto Transit Commission Southeast Pennsylvania Transportation Authority Port Authority of Allegheny County Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County Metropolitan Transit Commission Mass Transit Administration Bi-State Development Agency Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority Ottawa-Carlton Regional Transportation Commission Edmonton Transit Regional Transportation District Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation Calgary Transit Metropolitan Dade County Transit Agency Santa Clara County Transit District Orange County Transit District Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority Dallas Transit System Milwaukee County Transit System Metro Transit Operating Company — Greater Vancouver Transit System San Francisco Municipal Railway VIA Metropolitan Transit Regional Transit Authority Connecticut Transit (Hartford, New Haven and Stamford Divisions) Niagra Frontier Transit Metro System, Inc. City and County of Honolulu — The Bus Queen City Metro Utah Transit Authority Kansas City Area Transportation Authority Metropolitan Bus Authority Phoenix Transit System Metropolitan Suburban Bus Authority Tidewater Transportation District Commission Central Ohio Transit Authority San Diego Transit Corporation Transit Authority of River City San Mateo County Transit District Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation Rhode Island Public Transit Authority Sacramento Regional Transit District New York Transit Authority and Manhattan and Bronx Surface Transit Operating Authority New Jersey Transit Corporation Bus Operations, Inc. & Statewide Vehicle Lease Program Southern California Rapid Transit District Chicago Transit Authority Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Commission De Transport De La Communaute De Montreal Toronto Transit Commission Southeast Pennsylvania Transportation Authority Port Authority of Allegheny County Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County Metropolitan Transit Commission Mass Transit Administration Bi-State Development Agency Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority Ottawa-Carlton Regional Transportation Commission Edmonton Transit Regional Transportation District Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation Calgary Transit Metropolitan Dade County Transit Agency Santa Clara County Transit District Orange County Transit District Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority Dallas Transit System Milwaukee County Transit System Metro Transit Operating Company — Greater Vancouver Transit System San Francisco Municipal Railway VIA Metropolitan Transit Regional Transit Authority Connecticut Transit (Hartford, New Haven and Stamford Divisions) Niagra Frontier Transit Metro System, Inc. City and County of Honolulu — The Bus Queen City Metro Utah Transit Authority Kansas City Area Transportation Authority Metropolitan Bus Authority Phoenix Transit System Metropolitan Suburban Bus Authority Tidewater Transportation District Commission Central Ohio Transit Authority San Diego Transit Corporation Transit Authority of River City San Mateo County Transit District Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation Rhode Island Public Transit Authority Sacramento Regional Transit District New York Transit Authority and Manhattan and Bronx Surface Transit Operating Authority New Jersey Transit Corporation Bus Operations, Inc. & Statewide Vehicle Lease Program Southern California Rapid Transit District Chicago Transit Authority Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Commission De Transport De La Communaute De Montreal Toronto Transit Commission Southeast Pennsylvania Transportation Authority Port Authority of Allegheny County Bay Transportation Authority Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County Metropolitan Transit Commission Mass Transit Administration Bi-State Development Agency Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority Ottawa-Carlton Regional Transportation Commission Edmonton Transit Regional Transportation District Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation Calgary Transit Metropolitan Dade County Transit Agency Santa Clara County Transit District Orange County Transit District Southeastern Michigan Transp[illegible]uthority Dallas Transit System Milwaukee County Trans[illegible]stem M[illegible]ro T[illegible]it Operating Company — Greater Vancouver Transit System San Franci[illegible]unici[illegible] R[illegible]way [illegible] M[illegible]opo[illegible]n T[illegible]sit Re[illegible]' Tra[illegible]' Auth[illegible] Connecticu[illegible] Tr[illegible]sit (Hartford, New Haven and Stamford Divisions) Niagra Front[illegible]ansit [illegible]o[illegible]y[illegible]st [illegible]In[illegible]ity a[illegible]Co[illegible]y of [illegible]olulu – [illegible]e B[illegible]Queen City [illegible]n Utah Transit Authority Kansas City Area Transportation Authorit[illegible]ropoli[illegible] Bus Au[illegible]ity [illegible]ponit[illegible]an [illegible]ystem [illegible]opol[illegible] Sub[illegible]n Bus Author[illegible]dewater Transportation District Commission Central Ohio Tra[illegible] Authority San Diego [illegible]ans[illegible] Corporation [illegible]ansh[illegible] Authority o[illegible]iver City San Mateo County Transit District Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation Rhode Island Public Transit Authority Sacramento Regional Transit District New York Transit Authority and Manhattan and Bronx Surface Transit Operating Authority New Jersey Transit Corporation Bus Operations, Inc. & Statewide Vehicle Lease Program Southern California Rapid Transit District Chicago Transit Authority Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Commission De Transport De La Communaute De Montreal Toronto Transit Commission Southeast Pennsylvania Transportation Authority Port Authority of Allegheny County Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County Metropolitan Transit Commission Mass Transit Administration Bi-State Development Agency Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority Ottawa-Carlton Regional Transportation Commission Edmonton Transit Regional Transportation District Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation Calgary Transit Metropolitan Dade County Transit Agency Santa Clara County Transit District Orange County Transit District Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority Dallas Transit System Milwaukee County Transit System Metro Transit Operating Company — Greater Vancouver Transit System San Francisco Municipal Railway VIA Metropolitan Transit Regional Transit Authority Connecticut Transit (Hartford, New Haven and Stamford Divisions) Niagra Frontier Transit Metro System, Inc. City and County of Honolulu — The Bus Queen City Metro Utah Transit Authority Kansas City Area Transportation Authority Metropolitan Bus Authority Phoenix Transit System Metropolitan Suburban Bus Authority Tidewater Transportation District Commission Central Ohio Transit Authority San Diego Transit Corporation Transit Authority of River City San Mateo County Transit District Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation Rhode Island Public Transit Authority Sacramento Regional Transit District New York Transit Authority and Manhattan and Bronx S[illegible].rans[illegible]pe[illegible]ng Authority New Jersey Transit Corporation Bus Operations, Inc. & Statewide Vehicle Lease Program Southern California Rapid T ansit Distric[illegible]ic[illegible] Transit Authority Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Commission De Transport De La Communaute De Montreal Toronto [illegible]sit [illegible]m[illegible]n Southeast Pennsylvania Transportation Authority Port Authority of Allegheny County Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority M[illegible]ip[illegible]of [illegible]o[illegible]n Seattle Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County Metropolitan Transit Commission Mass Transit Administration Bi-State Develop[illegible]....[illegible]gency [illegible]Cleveland Regional Transit Authority Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority Ottawa-Carlton Regional Transportation Commission Edmonton Transit Regional Transportation District Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation Calgary Transit Metropolitan Dade County Transit Agency Santa Clara County Transit District Orange County Transit District Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority Dallas Transit System Milwaukee County Transit System Metro Transit Operating Company — Greater Vancouver Transit System San Francisco Municipal Railway VIA Metropolitan Transit Regional Transit Authority Connecticut Transit (Hartford, New Haven and Stamford Divisions) Niagra Frontier Transit Metro System, Inc. City and County of Honolulu — The Bus Queen City Metro Utah Transit Authority Kansas City Area Transportation Authority Metropolitan Bus Authority Phoenix Transit System Metropolitan Suburban Bus Authority Tidewater Transportation District Commission Central Ohio Transit Authority San Diego Transit Corporation Transit Authority of River City San Mateo County Transit District Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation Rhode Island Public Transit Authority Sacramento Regional Transit District New York Transit Authority and Manhattan and Bronx Surface Transit Operating Authority New Jersey Transit Corporation Bus Operations, Inc. & Statewide Vehicle Lease Program Southern California Rapid Transit District Chicago Transit Authority Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Commission De Transport De La Communaute De Montreal Toronto Transit Commission Southeast Pennsylvania Transportation Authority Port Authority of Allegheny County Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County Metropolitan Transit Commission Mass Transit Administration Bi-State Development Agency Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority Ottawa-Carlton Regional Transportation Commission Edmonton Transit Regional Transportation District Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation Calgary Transit Metropolitan Dade County Transit Agency Santa Clara County Transit District Orange County Transit District Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority Dallas Transit System Milwaukee County Transit System Metro Transit Operating Company — Greater Vancouver Transit System San Francisco Municipal Railway VIA Metropolitan Transit Regional Transit Authority Connecticut Transit (Hartford, New Haven and Stamford Divisions) Niagra Frontier Transit Metro System, Inc. City and County of Honolulu — The Bus Queen City Metro Utah Transit Authority Kansas City Area Transportation Authority Metropolitan Bus Authority Phoenix Transit System Metropolitan Suburban Bus Authority Tidewater Transportation District Commission Central Ohio Transit Authority San Diego Transit Corporation Transit Authority of River City San Mateo County Transit District Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation Rhode Island Public Transit Authority Sacramento Regional Transit DistrictNew York Transit Authority and Manhattan and Bronx Surface Transit Operating Authority New Jersey Transit Corporation Bus Operations, Inc.

Where They Fit

How North America transit systems' bus fleets rank; here are the top 50.



It's been an eventful year for the transit industry, a mixed bag of good news and bad. New bus buys across most of the country were down, so much so that both GM and Flxible temporarily closed down production because of dwindling transit sales.

Ironically, while some U.S. manufacturers were hard-pressed for business, two European manufacturers, Saab-Scania and Volvo, have successfully entered the U.S. market, setting up domestic production facilities and successfully negotiating deals with U.S. and Canadian transit properties.

Falling in line

On the accompanying pages, METRO ranks the 50 largest transit systems in North America. This statistical compilation was made possible by information furnished by the American Public Transit Association.

Additional information was provided by Bobit Publishing Research, since some large transit systems, Edmonton Transit, for example, were not included in the 1983 APTA list, though with 853 buses it ranks 20th in size.

According to the most recent APTA figures, its membership represents more than 700 North American transit systems. This year 267 transit systems responded to the voluntary survey. Said John Neff, APTA's director of statistics, "This is only the second annual survey, and it keeps getting bigger." By comparison, 199 transit systems responded in 1982.

New Jersey Transit did not respond to the 1982 survey since it was in the process of reorganizing at the time. This year, however, NJT ranks as the second largest transit bus system in the country with 3,131 buses. According to Anthony Graziosa, director of public information, prior to its reorganization NJT operated the same number of buses, replacing older vehicles with new ones over the past year.

What do the numbers say?

Fleet mix is divided into three categories: under 35-ft. buses, over 35-ft. buses, and articulated buses. Also included is the average age in years of each systems' buses, the total number of vehicles, and the increase or decrease in bus fleet size over the preceding year.

These 50 transit systems account for 47,129 transit buses in North American cities; 3,086 were added this year, while 1,217 were removed from transit service, accounting for a net increase of 1,869 buses.

The largest increase in bus fleets occurred in Washington, D.C., where 446 new buses were added, followed by Houston which increased its size by 325 buses, from 842 in 1982 to 1,168 in 1983.

The smallest increase in bus fleet size occurred in New Orleans; only two buses were added to its fleet.

The largest decrease occurred at the Southern California Rapid Transit District in Los Angeles; its fleet dropped by 243 buses. M

Transit's Top 50

RANK			FLEET MIX/AGE				FLEET SIZE	
'84	'83	Transit Authority, City	Over 35-ft.	Under 35-ft.	Artic-ulated	Avg. Age (Yrs.)	1984 Total	± Over 1983
1	1	New York Transit Authority and Manhattan and Bronx Surface Transit Operating Authority New York, NY	4,545	14	3	6.5	4,562	−24
2	*	New Jersey Transit Corporation Bus Operations Inc. & Statewide Vehicle Lease Program Newark, NJ	3,100	31	0	6.9	3,131	0
3	2	Southern California Rapid Transit District Los Angeles, CA	2,736	173	40	8.7	2,949	−243
4	3	Chicago Transit Authority, Chicago, IL	2,270	42	20	8.9	2,332	+208
5	5	Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, Washington, D.C.	76	161	1,900	10.2	2,137	+446
6	4	Commission De Transport De La Communaute De Montreal, Montreal, Quebec	21	81	1,993	7.6	2,095	−2
7	8	Toronto Transit Commission, Toronto, Ontario	12	19	1,518	7.1	1,549	+217
8	6	Southeast Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, Philadelphia, PA	1,420	68	0	7.9	1,488	−64
9	12	Port Authority of Allegheny County Pittsburgh, PA	906	284	50	5.4	1,240	+225
10	7	Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Boston, MA	937	254	0	8.0	1,191	+17
11	13	Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle Seattle, WA	731	105	353	6.9	1,189	+198
12	15	Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County Houston, TX	1,067	101	0	5.6	1,168	+325
13	9	Metropolitan Transit Commission St. Paul, MN	1,047	55	45	9.6	1,147	+22

** Since NJT was in the process of reorganizing at the time and did respond to APTA's survey, it could not be ranked for the following year.*

Transit's Top 50 continued

RANK			FLEET MIX/AGE				FLEET SIZE	
'84	'83	Transit Authority, City	Over 35-ft.	Under 35-ft.	Artic-ulated	Avg. Age (Yrs.)	1984 Total	± Over 1983
14	14	Mass Transit Administration Baltimore, MD	930	20	0	8.7	950	-16
15	11	Bi-State Development Agency St. Louis, MO	677	272	0	7.7	949	-90
16	10	Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority Cleveland, OH	850	76	0	8.8	926	-154
17	15	Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District Oakland, CA	675	187	30	8.1	892	-42
18	18	Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority Atlanta, GA	781	46	56	8.2	883	+80
19	19	Ottawa-Carlton Regional Transportation Commission, Ottawa, Ontario	760	80	21	8.6	861	+91
20	21	Edmonton Transit Edmonton, Alberta	818	35	0	10.5	853	+139
21	22	Regional Transportation District Denver, CO	623	63	89	6.3	775	+104
22	25	Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation (Tri-Met), Portland, OR	332	291	87	9.2	710	+96
23	26	Calgary Transit, Calgary, Alberta	649	56	0	7.4	705	+104
24	17	Metropolitan Dade County Transit Agency Miami, FL	637	46	0	7.2	683	-135
25	20	Santa Clara County Transit District San Jose, CA	430	222	30	8.0	682	-74
26a	33	Orange County Transit District Garden Grove, CA	403	272	0	4.7	675	+178

Transit's Top 50 continued

RANK			FLEET MIX/AGE				FLEET SIZE	
'84	'83	Transit Authority, City	Over 35-ft.	Under 35-ft.	Artic-ulated	Avg. Age (Yrs.)	1984 Total	± Over 1983
26b	23	Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority, Detroit, MI	268	407	0	4.8	675	+11
27	29	Dallas Transit System Dallas, TX	663	1	0	8.1	664	+104
28	24	Milwaukee County Transit System Milwaukee, WI	614	18	0	11.7	632	-19
29	28	Metro Transit Operating Company— Greater Vancouver Transit System Vancouver, British Columbia	547	50	0	11.3	597	+27
30	31	San Francisco Municipal Railway San Francisco, CA	417	100	0	12.8	517	-9
31	35	VIA Metropolitan Transit San Antonio, TX	145	368	0	8.6	513	+34
32	32	Regional Transit Authority New Orleans, LA	493	14	0	8.5	507	+2
33	27	Connecticut Transit (Hartford, New Haven and Stamford Divisions), Hartford, CT	379	120	0	7.3	499	-87
34	34	Niagra Frontier Transit Metro System, Inc. Buffalo, NY	443	30	0	8.8	473	-9
35	36	City and County of Honolulu—The Bus Honolulu, HI	429	25	0	8.8	454	+44
36	30	Queen City Metro Cincinnati, OH	421	1	0	7.2	422	-116
37	38	Utah Transit Authority Salt Lake City, UT	226	180	0	6.4	406	+39

Circle 137 on METRO Action Card →

Transit's Top 50 continued

RANK			FLEET MIX/AGE				FLEET SIZE	
'84	'83	Transit Authority, City	Over 35-ft.	Under 35-ft.	Artic-ulated	Avg. Age (Yrs.)	1984 Total	± Over 1983
38	40	Kansas City Area Transportation Authority Kansas City, MO	352	28	0	9.0	380	+57
39	42	Metropolitan Bus Authority Hato Rey, Puerto Rico	0	357	0	6.9	357	+24
40	50	Phoenix Transit System Phoenix, AZ	276	41	20	8.8	337	+90
41	40	Metropolitan Suburban Bus Authority East Meadows, NJ	333	0	0	7.6	333	-8
42	37	Tidewater Transportation District Commission Norfolk, VA	119	213	0	4.9	332	-72
43	46	Central Ohio Transit Authority Columbus, OH	263	60	0	6.6	323	+50
44	45	San Diego Transit Corporation San Diego, CA	220	50	45	8.0	315	+37
45	44	Transit Authority of River City Louisville, KY	271	25	15	6.2	311	+28
46	39	San Mateo County Transit District San Mateo, CA	148	137	10	6.8	295	-51
47	48	Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District, San Rafael, CA	264	11	0	8.9	275	+14
48	53	Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation, Indianapolis, IN	192	59	21	6.2	272	+41
49	47	Rhode Island Public Transit Authority Providence, RI	67	198	0	10.8	265	-2
50	54	Sacramento Regional Transit District Sacramento, CA	135	118	0	10.5	253	+34

Sources: American Public Transit Association 1983 Transit Passenger Vehicle Fleet Inventory and Bobit Publishing Research. *This chart may not be reproduced in whole or in part without the express permission of Bobit Publishing. Copyright © 1984.*

← Circle 137 on METRO Action Card